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New Police Chief Mazzone Welcomed; Longo Defends Process

By SUSANNA SHOHAM

The selectmen's official welcome of Duxbury's new police chief Charles Mazzone was overshadowed slightly this week by a resident upset with the selection process.

Selectman chairman James Murphy congratulated Mazzone, saying: "We had 95 terrific candidates, internal and external, and you clearly were the best one for the job, and we're happy to have you here in Duxbury."

Mazzone responded: "I just want to thank you and the board of selectmen and the people of Duxbury for considering me and know that when I report for work I will give you my very best and maintain the security of your community. That's very very important to me."

Mazzone said he is excited about moving to Duxbury with his wife and 3 grown children from outside urban Baltimore. "It's quite a contrast," he said. Mazzone will probably begin after Jan. 1. He is working with Town Manager Rocco Longo on his contract. Mazzone's current salary as a Lt. Col. in the Maryland state police is \$73,000, he said.

"I hope to keep up the pace that the current chief has set and maintain the quality of life here, which is the central theme of this community," Mazzone, 45, said. Mazzone is originally from Pleasantville in south New Jersey, on the seashore.

The selectmen's welcome of Mazzone came on the heels of a discussion with one resident upset about the withholding of finalists names during the selection process. During the open forum section of the selectmen's meeting, Paul Spolidoro of Tremont St. said he still wanted to know why Longo withheld the names of finalists for both the fire and police chiefs positions when withholding this information is a violation of the state's public documents law.

"I'm still questioning why the process was kept so secret," Spolidoro said. He wrote a letter to the editor of the *Clipper* last week outlining his concerns.

Longo defended his decision not to reveal the names of the finalists until he was ready to announce his appointments. "I voluntarily gave the list of names to

the reporters," he said, adding that the Secretary of State's office did not make a ruling on this issue, although it had stated to the *Clipper* that the finalists' names were public record. Longo believed the names of the finalists could be kept confidential, as some candidates requested, because the selection process was not made in a public meeting but was under his authority.

Murphy defended Longo and the selection process saying "He could have easily kept the entire process confidential" but decided to use two selection committees consisting of 10 residents each.

Spolidoro said he wondered why the names of the finalists were not given to the public at the time they were available to the press.

"I'm really dismayed and ashamed," he said. "I just doubt the process. It was quite hidden. It almost smacks of a hidden agenda."

Murphy agreed to meet with Spolidoro to discuss his concerns.

In other business, selectmen decided against a draft of a town-wide alcohol license policy that requires establishments that sell or serve alcohol to have liquor liability insurance and name the town as an insured party before they can obtain a license. Selectmen made this decision after an informal discussion in which David O'Connell of the Winsor House and John Johnson of the Milepost Tavern Restaurant aired their feelings on the policy. O'Connell said he carries liquor liability insurance and it costs in the tens of thousands of dollars, but that to require it of all establishments could present a financial burden to them. Also, he was against naming the town as an insured party because no other town in the state requires that for licensing. This requirement was proposed by Longo as a way of protecting the town from lawsuits since it issues the licenses.

Selectmen agreed with O'Connell. "That's a private businessman's decision" whether or not to carry liquor liability insurance, said Murphy.

Selectmen and Longo plan to revise the alcohol license policy and discuss it officially on Nov. 18.